 

 

Judith L Ayala

Introduction to Literature

Fahrenheit 451

In the book *Fahrenheit 451,* the main theme is censorship. The people are being control by the government and not able to act freely. The worse thing that can be done to a person is try to control it, but it seems to me that in this novel everybody is allowing that to happen as if it was a communist government type. There are some people that are brave and actually go undercover to continue to read books, but sooner or later they are found. I think that even though we are not being sensor like in novel we can still relate to that situation in a way. We as citizens have the right of freedom, but may not be slaves right now but we are to the mercy of the government. The situation of security in the nation is pushing a lot of factors that sooner or later will lead to a massive way of controlling citizens.

The initial request for censorship is justify with a great excuse to implement it, but if citizens don’t step up to the plate they won’t know the real truth behind it. People in power don’t want to feel intimidated by the citizens, and this goes back to the times of the Exodus when Pharaoh was afraid that the children of Israel will multiply and rose up with a greater power to take control over Egypt. Most countries that are communist their government officials were chosen by their own people, this is why I think that censorship begins with a reasonable excuse so that it can accept it.

The first image is just showing how censorship is never proposed as a tread to the people. In the novel you wouldn’t see a straight and convincing answer as to why books needed to be burnt, they didn’t feel firm in their answers. They did act with obedience, but they really were doing it out of ignorance. They had no knowledge as to why they were harm to society, and the little answers that they had were not convincing at all. In our society we have the need to secure our borders and prevent terrorist attacks and I think that for the safety of our country we all agree that is needed, but how much is too much?

How much is too much? Can we really know when to stop? I don’t think so, because the end result is that we will all have to surrender our freedom rights and be slaves of censorship; which is illustrated in the second image above. Every American citizen is aware of the need of security, but also aware that they could be as hard as not feeling secure. This is one of the biggest debates in our society which one are you willing to give up freedom or security?

In the third image I can see that censorship could also affect our children. At home as parents we like to control for the most part the lives of our children so that we can make sure that they don’t make mistakes; that is already a concern for them because they don’t like to be control. I can’t even imagine our children going through a deep and strict way of censorship in schools. I feel that do to the fact that every day we see many more cases of school violence in children as young as six years of age; this is leading to a stricter way to control problems in schools. Then again we all agree that those problems need to be address, but I imagine how hard is going to be for our children to be forced to be censor in every kind of way even in school. How is that going to affect their way of developing as individuals and looking forward for a better future? In the novel I can imagine how hard it must to been for children to survive without books or in other words without knowledge.

The last image represents our financial situation. Our economy is not the greatest right now, and this is creating more robberies, assaults, murders, counterfeit money, identity theft and many more that evolve around money. The need to prevent all this is going to create a system in which money might not even exist anymore. We might even have to have some kind of special technological way to be identified so that it will be almost impossible for someone to even want to commit any of those crimes. Our government as always is pressure to find a solution; therefore once again censorship will be the solution. I work for a bank and I seen many ways that people lose money because of identity theft, but if we have a way to implant a ship into to person’s body and this ship will have everything about them no one else could come and pretend to be that person. Money is little by little leaving our site. First it started with checks, people found it convenient to carry a checkbook instead of cash to have their money secure. Later on came the ATM or debit cards those are more convenient than checks, in combination with direct deposit we never get to see a penny of it. Now banks are evolving so much that they are thinking of a even better way to get people to access their money at anytime, at any place and without any risk of identity theft, because they have lost a lot of money in those kind of situations.

There are many factors that contribute to censorship, and in the novel *Fahrenheit 451* we could only get some of that feeling of being control and not have freedom. We need to be aware that even though we are not part of a communist country, we have to still fight for our rights, not everything is in favor to citizens rights. We all know that the country is in a critical condition and we are here to give support and contribute to make it a better place to live in, but they also have to understand that we need our space and for our words to be heard.